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BACK ON TRACK

Regulator calls off hospital investigation

Pleased to hear the news: Interim chief executive Ann Radmore with nurses and, top, James Berry MP who volunteers at the hospital

KT65387

REPORTER
RACHAEL BURFORD
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The health regulator has closed its investigation into the financially troubled Kingston Hospital six months after launching one.

Monitor began its inquiry in June when patients were waiting more than the recommended four hours to receive treatment in A&E and the hospital was predicting a multi-million-pound deficit.

Since then the hospital has announced its predicted deficit is down from £8.8m to £6.1m.

Monitor also found it had significantly improved its short and long-term financial planning.

Ann Radmore, interim chief executive at Kingston Hospital, said: "We are very pleased Monitor will not be taking any formal regulatory action.

"Everyone across the organisation and our partners have worked extremely hard over the last six months to deliver real improvements to our performance in A&E and the experience of the patients we are caring for.

"The whole of the NHS is facing financial challenges, but I am proud of the fact that we have been able to reduce the size of our predicted deficit for this year by more than £2.5m."

Despite the favourable report from Monitor, the hospital is still not meeting its A&E waiting time targets and Ms Radmore has admitted the winter months put "extreme pressure on the fragile department".

She also told the Kingston Guardian that while the hospital was doing "great things in reducing its deficit" getting this figure down to zero would be "an extremely big step".

Kingston and Surbiton MP James Berry volunteers at the hospital once a month.

He said: "I spent a week at the hospital spending time in each department. My time in A&E was a real eye-opener. It was quite clear that at least 40 per cent of people [using A&E] didn't need to be there.

"I am a massive supporter of the NHS but people should use it appropriately. It is important to note that the investigation was never about the quality of care the dedicated staff at Kingston Hospital work hard to provide, and it is a testament to staff at the hospital that they continued to do so throughout the investigation."

Monitor's deputy regional director Victoria Woodhatch said: "We are pleased to see the trust is working hard to turn around its finances and reduce waiting times. These improvements come at a crucial time as the NHS deals with an increased number of patients over the winter period.

"We will continue to support the trust to make sure these improvements are lasting and ensure the future sustainability of services on behalf of patients."



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REPORTERS
JON MITCHELL
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Kingston and Surbiton face a battle with neighbouring borough Epsom to see its two train stations rezoned.

MP for Kingston and Surbiton James Berry has been lobbying in Parliament to change Surbiton and Kingston stations from zone 6 to zone 5, a move that could save commuters £156 a year.

But fellow Conservative MP Chris Grayling has started a similar campaign in his constituency, hoping to get the Oyster card into town and move Epsom station into London's zone six. Currently Epsom is not in a London zone.

Mr Berry said: "There's quite a few [MPs] going for it and if one gets it, the case for giving it to the other boroughs strengthens.

"I think that's one of the things that will make it difficult with the budget and I assume that's the Government's worry.

"But I think our case is better than the others."

The Kingston rezoning campaign, which was first proposed almost a decade ago by Liberal Democrat predecessor Ed Davey, now aims to see stations rezoned by 2017, when the new South West Trains contract is renegotiated.

But with a limited budget surrounding rezoning, Mr Berry has admitted his biggest hurdle would be working out how to pay the train company the annual £6m loss if the stations are reclassified.

In comparison, Mr Grayling's campaign to get Epsom rezoned in line with Epsom Downs and Tattenham Corner, already in zone 6, is estimated to cost less and in the region of £1m.

But Mr Grayling's campaign has seen a similarly exhaustive struggle, with Epsom station originally set to move into a zone to get Oyster cards in September 2015 before this was indefinitely delayed.

Mr Grayling called it "ridiculous" Epsom Downs and Tattenham Corner stations are already in zone 6, but Epsom itself is not, adding "it's something we need to get changed".





Train views: James Berry, left, and Chris Grayling, right

Mr Grayling said: "At this point we just want to get Oyster cards at Epsom station.

"It's very frustrating, especially as a few other Surrey stations have since been included in the Oyster system.

"After getting Oyster, then becoming part of zone 6 wouldn't be cheap – it would cost about £1m.

"But zone 6 is definitely the goal."

He also plans to use the renegotiation of the South West Trains contract to state his case.

Mr Grayling added: "South West Trains is now drawing up a new franchise agreement, and one thing we can do is tell it what changes in rail services we'd like to see over the next contract.

"There are a lot of MPs campaigning to get re-zoned. Other MPs are talking to transport ministers, as I am, and obviously there is a finite budget for these things.

"I'd say there's friendly competition in Westminster between myself and other MPs, like James Berry."

Last month, Mr Davey said the treasury had blocked his efforts in getting Kingston and Surbiton rezoned as a "political measure", but said Kingston's new Tory MP would have no trouble securing the deal for the borough.

He had added: "It would be absolutely astonishing if he can't pull it off."

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Battered by Alan Banks: Robbie Kingsford



Thug: Alan Banks, left, with his friend Samuel Light, who had a charge of actual bodily harm dropped due to a lack of evidence

Tutu-wearing attacker guilty

REPORTER
ANDERS ANGLESEY
anders.anglesey@london.newsquest.co.uk



A man has admitted a brutal attack on a young man in Surbiton town centre last year.

Alan Banks, 27, pleaded guilty to attacking the man in what was initially said to be a homophobic attack, which left the victim with horrendous facial injuries on Halloween last year.

Retail worker Robbie Kingsford, then 21, was attacked outside KFC in Brighton Road, Surbiton, as he was walking with a friend in the early hours of November 1.

The attack, by two men wearing pink tutus, left Mr Kingsford, from Leatherhead, with two black eyes, bruises to the face and severe cuts.

A second victim, then aged 18, also sustained facial injuries.

Banks, of Kinross Avenue, Worcester Park, changed his plea to guilty to one count of actual bodily harm on Tuesday, December 1.

One count of exposure against Banks was dropped by the prosecution team.

Samuel Light, 27, of Westville Road, Thames Ditton, was also due to stand trial this week on one count of actual bodily harm, but the case was dropped against him because of a lack of evidence.

In one photo on his Facebook page, uploaded in May 2014, Banks, a former Hinchley Wood Secondary School pupil, and Samuel Light pose with pink face paint on a train.

After the attack police appealed for information about two white men dressed in pink tutus and the attack was said to be homophobic, but no charges relating to homophobia were ever brought.

A spokesman from the Crown Prosecution Service said: "The defendant, Alan Banks, offered a guilty plea to assault occasioning actual bodily harm on the basis that particular words he had used were not homophobic. We considered this plea and taking into account the views of the victim we decided that this plea was acceptable."

Trainee Detective Constable Ann-Marie Hodgkiss said at the time: "This was a violent and unprovoked hate crime and I am appealing for anyone with any information about the incident to contact me.

"The two suspects were distinctively dressed, probably due to Halloween, and I would urge anyone who recognises their description and who may know who they are to contact me and help us trace them."

Following the attack Robbie's father Brian Kingsford, a caretaker at Kingston Council, set up the Facebook group Red Alert to trace wanted criminals.

Since its launch, about 16,000 members have joined and it has expanded to include wider parts of the UK.

Banks is due to appear at Kingston Crown Court on Wednesday, January 6, for sentencing.

'Gun' found in raid on estate

A fake gun was seized from a flat on the Cambridge Road estate during an early morning police raid last week.

Police stormed the address in Fordham block, Excelsior Close, just after midnight on Wednesday, December 2

Witnesses reported seeing at least 20 police officers, some in riot gear, and police dogs on the estate.

Roads in and out of the estate were blocked off while the raid happened.

No arrests were made.

A police spokesman said: "Officers executed a warrant at an address in Excelsior Close, Kingston shortly after 12am.

"No arrests [were made] and enquiries continue."

Power out in town

A power cut forced shops and cafes in a Kingston town centre street to close on Monday.

The power failure hit half the shops in Apple Market and Market Place just after 2.30pm.

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Hit-and-run driver sought after crash outside hospital

A hit-and-run driver is being hunted by police after a woman was knocked over near Kingston Hospital.

Kingston police are appealing for witnesses to the crash that happened at about 5.30pm in Galsworthy Road on Friday, December 4.

Police did not give a description of the car, but said it was later abandoned nearby.

A police spokesman confirmed the woman's injuries were not thought to be serious.

He said: "Doctors, nurses and paramedics ran from the hospital to help police treat the lady.

"She was taken to hospital, but luckily her injuries didn't appear to be too serious.

"The vehicle was later recovered by police in a nearby estate.

"We are now appealing for your help, did you see what happened? Do you know the driver of the vehicle?"

The crash happened on the same stretch of road where Surrey Comet features editor June Sampson was hit two years ago by consultant obstetrician Andrew Breeze, who was working at Kingston Hospital.

If you witnessed the crash call Kingston police on 101.



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Council grants time for post office site plan redrawing

The application to develop the old post office site in Kingston town centre has been put on hold, after being refused by the council last month.

St George applied for planning permission to build on the site bordered by Ashdown Road, Brook Street, Eden Street and Wheatfield Way in December 2014.

A meeting of the development control committee voted to refuse the 16-storey tower block on November 5.

The developer has now requested the application be put in "abeyance" – essentially on hold – so it may change aspects of the application and overcome the reasons for refusal.

Kingston Council has agreed to allow St George the opportunity to submit revised drawings, which will be sent back to a development control committee for a decision at a later date.



Barcadian idyll: A 'string of licence breaches', led to the closure

Barcadia shut forever

REPORTER
RACHAEL BURFORD
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A Kingston nightclub has been forced to close its doors for good and its owner ordered to pay nearly £20,000 in legal fees after a court battle to save it failed.

Barcadia closed this week after a Wimbledon Magistrates' Court ruling, on December 1, in favour of Kingston Council, which had taken away the club's licence.

The final straw for the decade-old club came in April when two 17-year-old girls were let in and served alcohol at the Clarence Street bar. One used an out-of-date passport to get in.

One of the girls also met a man in the bar she later accused of raping her at the Antoinette Hotel, in Beaufort Road.

No criminal charges were ever bought against this man.

Barcadia owner Huseyin Sanli said: "It is sad, but we have to respect the ruling and move on with our lives. I have to sell the lease if I can. Kingston has a wonderful nightlife. I hope Kingston gets another club in its place."

Barcadia had temporarily lost its licence in early 2014 after a Christmas Eve glassing at the late night venue.

Conservative Kingston councillor with responsibility for licensing, Phil Doyle, denied that this was a particularly harsh ruling after the nightclub opposite – Oceana, which later rebranded to Pryzm – was allowed to stay open by the then Liberal Democrat-run administration, despite a fatal stabbing in October 2012.

At the time the council had dropped the case against Luminar, now called the Deltic group, amid fears of a costly legal battle in the courts.

Coun Doyle said: "This is not a crackdown on clubs or a licensing crackdown. We just want people to adhere to their licences and if they don't there will be consequences. This was not a one-off incident at Barcadia. It was one in a series of licensing breaches."

Liberal Democrat and Grove ward Councillor Jon Tolley said: "I hope this was done for the right reasons and, from what I have heard, this was not the first time the club had breached its licence."

Mr Sanli said he would now be focusing on his other Kingston nightclub, Library, in High Street, which he plans to turn into a live music venue.

He said: "It's early days. I am having meetings about getting up and coming bands into the club."

Natasha White, 26, who was a regular Barcadia clubber, said: "I can't believe it's closing for good."



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TEA PARTY: The Shiraz Mirza Community Trust will sponsor a Christmas tea party for older people. It will foot the bill for the mayor's senior citizens tea party and raffle on Friday, December 18, from 3pm to 5pm, in the council's Guildhall chamber. To attend the free event, book a space by emailing mayors.office@kingston.gov.uk or call 020 8547 5027.

CASE DISCONTINUED: The case against a man accused of exposing his genitals at the Malden Centre has been discontinued. One count against Fred Berry, 84, of Linkside, New Malden, of intending someone to see his genitals will not proceed.

TEEN IN COURT: A teenager has denied stealing £3,000-worth of power tools from a garage in Surbiton. Toby Boakes-Rothwell, 19, of Coombe Lane West, New Malden was remanded in custody, when he appeared in court last month. He will appear at Kingston Crown Court on February 29 for his trial.

Vibe
P15-16

Teenager jailed for town centre knifing

REPORTER
RACHAEL BURFORD
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Police tape: At the site of the attack in Kingston

A doctor's son stabbed a teenager in the back outside a Kingston leisure centre with a knife he had hidden behind a town centre bin just weeks before.

The 17-year-old Tolworth teenager, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was sentenced to four years and six months in jail at Kingston Crown Court for the 4pm stabbing of 19-year-old Jordan Beard outside the Kingfisher leisure centre on April 10.

Defence counsel Rebecca Lee said the defendant, who has previous convictions including robbery and possession of an offensive weapon, had been badly affected by separation from his mother who works abroad as a doctor.

She argued his sentence should be more lenient because of family difficulties and the fact that he had pleaded guilty to the charge of grievous bodily harm with intent before the case went to trial on Monday, December 7.

She said: "The separation from his mother is an ongoing factor.

"He was seen by mental health services in 2001 and received a diagnosis of autism and that no doubt affected his behaviour and how he deals with people."

The court heard how the two teenagers had been friends, but fell out weeks before the fight and agreed to meet outside the Fairfield Road leisure centre to fight.

Victim Mr Beard had "thrown a punch" first before the defendant pulled a knife from his waistband and stabbed Mr Beard in the side and then in the back near his shoulder.

Judge Susan Tapping said although the defendant admitted throwing the knife away and stabbing Mr Beard, it did not affect the "seriousness of the offence".

She said: "[He hid the knife] so that if he was ever in trouble in Kingston he had a knife. He went to the meeting armed with a knife he had retrieved from its hiding place. His last conviction was because he was carrying a blade in public. What he had planned after that was to hide a knife in Kingston so he didn't have to carry one all the time."

Judge Tapping warned that the defendant would have to serve a further two years on licence after his release from prison and, had the defendant been an adult, the starting sentence would have been 10 years.

She said: "It was clear you anticipated trouble. [The victim] admits punching you because he claims you have a reputation for carrying a knife and he feared for his safety. [Reports suggested] there is a significant risk to members of the public of serious harm from you."

Health inequality within borough

Norbiton residents live on average 10 years less in good health in comparison to people living in Coombe Hill, according to figures released.

The study compiled by the Office for National Statistics found that in Norbiton the average healthy life expectancy was 62 years, 10 years less than the highest expectancy in Kingston for Coombe Hill residents, which is 72.

On average, inequality in healthy life expectancy for men living in Kingston's most and least deprived areas was just over eight years – three years less than the national average.

Norbiton ward Councillor Lindsey Cottingham said: "It is really shocking and really maddening. There are pockets of Norbiton that are among the most deprived areas of the country.

"Every resident in Kingston deserves to enjoy the same quality of life, whether they are living in Norbiton or Coombe Hill."

The figures were estimated using the slope index of inequality, a statistical model that relates healthy life expectancy in small areas in local authorities to the level of deprivation in each area.

Jill Preston, from the Cambridge Estate in Norbiton, said: "I am not surprised at all. People need to be educated. There are a lot of groups trying to help, but there needs to be more co-operation.

"Our funding does not increase based on that fact, they need to focus on key areas like elderly care. At the moment money is being wasted."

The figures for the borough as a whole show that Kingston residents can expect to live 67 years in good health – this is almost five years more than the national average. Only Richmond performs better of the London boroughs.

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Ice rink in Kingston? Get your skates on...

REPORTER
RACHAEL BURFORD
rachael.burford@london.newsquest.co.uk



Hampton Court's iconic Christmas-time ice rink could have a bit of competition this year as Kingston town centre welcomes its first ice rink.

Real reindeer and festive food and drink will all be popping up in a town centre location over the weekend.

Riverside Edge restaurants will be hosting the free ice rink in Riverside Walk Yard, behind Cote restaurant, on Saturday, December 12, from 3pm to 7pm and on Sunday, December 13, from 11am to 6pm.

Although the rink and feeding the reindeer will be free to enjoy, visitors will be asked to give a donation to children's hospice charity Shooting Star Chase.

Greg Miles, from Canadian and Portland estates, which owns Riverside Walk, said: "We chose Shooting Star Chase as our nominated charity because we deeply admire its amazing work helping children with life-limiting illnesses and their families.

"We also feel it is important to support local charities.

"The children will be allocated private use of the rink before we open it up to the public.

"We hope to help the community get in the festive spirit and to enjoy themselves at one of our great restaurants before or after the fun."

The "pocket kitchens" in Riverside Edge opened a year ago and change every six months or so.

There are currently Italian, American and French cuisines available in Riverside Edge.

Mr Miles says this is the latest innovative step the riverside location has taken for the people of Kingston.

The last time Kingston enjoyed an ice rink was during what was dubbed the great freeze, when the River Thames froze over after the war in 1949, and residents were able to have a skate.

For details about Shooting Star Chase visit **shootingstarchase.org.uk.**



Rinky dinky do: Kingston is to have its own ice rink

'Ugly' trees

It is now officially Christmas and this can mean only one thing in Surbiton – is the Christmas tree good enough?

In 2013 Surbiton's Waitrose, which had sponsored that year's tree, was presented with "the most middle class petition" to improve the "ugly sight" that sat in the middle of the roundabout near the station.

Two years on, some residents have been left disappointed with the tree, *pictured below,* yet again.



Complaints that the pine tree sponsored by businesses does not have enough decorations, lights or sparkle have been voiced.

Some have gone so for as to suggest residents should add their own decorations in a guerrilla-style takeover.

Surbiton Hill councillor Malcolm Self has expressed worries for people potentially "on stepladders in the middle of a roundabout where buses go round".

The Surbiton Business Community, made up of business owners and councillors come together to plan Christmas events and decorations in Surbiton each February.

Coun Self is also part of the group.

He said: "The more people to do stuff, the better it is. Each year we have got a bit better."

Have your say on Crossrail 2

A proposed new railway

Crossrail 2 will serve London and the wider South East. It will reduce journey times, increase rail capacity and support the development of new jobs and homes.

We are holding another public consultation and a series of drop-in events across the proposed route.

For full details visit **www.crossrail2.co.uk** or call 0343 222 0055*.

The consultation will close on Friday 8 January 2016.

MAYOR OF LONDON NetworkRail TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

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POST: Kingston Guardian, 10th floor, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton SM2 5AS (Please include your name and address.)

Letters may be edited for space, clarity and legal reasons.

ONLINE OPINION

Comment on stories at **kingstonguardian.co.uk**

Waiting game? Fears over Crossrail 2 plans for fast trains at Surbiton

Current fast trains twice per hour: 17 minutes. Current slow trains, six per hour: 29 minutes. Only the snobs and faux riche of Surbiton could complain about 12-minute difference.

BANTERANG

Surbiton Yuppies won't have the quickest trains in the area so they're throwing their toys out the pram. Even Tolworth will have quicker and longer trains which go straight into central London. Not going to like that are you now? Your vastly over priced 1970s two-bed flats are going to return to their true value!

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If we cannot reach a resolution between us then you can contact IPSO by email at complaints@ipso.co.uk or by post at IPSO, c/o Halton House, 20-23 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD.

If complaining about third party comments on our website articles, you should use the "report this post" function online next to the comment.

New waste collection plan is unacceptable

I wonder how many people have fully understood the ramifications of the new waste collection service that will be starting in Kingston during January next year.

The only item that will be collected every week from then on is the brown food caddy.

The black landfill wheelie bin and the green bins for recycling will now be reduced to a fortnightly collection and alternate every week. Full details are on the council website for all to see.

Any councillor who tells you differently is guilty of misleading the public.

A further controversial change is the addition of yet another wheelie bin with a blue lid for paper and card, to keep it dry. There was nothing wrong with the white canvas bag for cardboard that had a sealing flap.

In East Devon, the East Devon District Council issues exactly the same green boxes as in London, but they are supplied with black plastic lids to keep the contents dry.

Surely that would have been considerably cheaper and sensible than a whole new wheelie bin?

What this council fails to recognise is the proportion of terraced housing in the borough, where the only option is now a third wheelie bin in the front garden, if you have the garden waste one as well.

Many roads look like run-down industrial estates. When the green bins overflow, people will simply put the excess in the landfill bin.

I am an ardent recycler, but enough is enough. I do it despite the council, not because of it. The new proposals are simply unacceptable, but I understand new bins have already been bought.

The council says: "These changes will be relatively small but we will save £4.2m over the next seven years."

This money can be better spent on protecting vital frontline services.

In real terms it is enough to pay the salaries of 17 social workers or teachers for seven years. They are not relatively small and they are far reaching, but just how many extra social workers does anyone actually expect to see?

Do not hold your breath – I will not be.

Kingston's waste collection will become a Mickey Mouse service, supplied by a Mickey Mouse council, led by chief comedian Kevin Davis.

Businesses and developers might want to invest in Kingston to make it a second Croydon, because of favourable planning decisions but, like Croydon, nobody will want to live here.

CHRIS STEPHENS
New Malden

It's still rubbish

I recently bought my husband on his 60th birthday an Evening Standard newspaper from the day he was born.

To my amazement on reading the paper 60 years ago, there were issues with rubbish being dumped in bins even back then.

We at Mulberry Court, in Lovelace Gardens, Surbiton, have had enough of residents from other courts dumping their rubbish in and around our bins.

Please can Kingston Council address this problem.

MICHELLE SANDS
Surbiton

TWEETS of the WEEK

@robpattenden wrote: God forbid another part of the borough benefits instead of Surbiton. Next they'll have to put Xmas lights up in Tolworth!

@breheenmachine said: How is new Malden high street always at a complete standstill? Takes me longer to get up this one road than the whole rest of my journey

One of best

I have known Bruce McDonald since I started work in Kingston more than 25 years ago.

We set up a number of positive and groundbreaking initiatives together – black history month, Kingston Carnival, Kingston Race Equality Scorecard with the Runnymede Trust.

While others were too worried to upset everyone, he wanted to ensure that diverse communities worked harmoniously together and I am proud to say, while others ignored the evolution and changing of the demography of Kingston, Bruce and I seamlessly promoted diversity and equality in ways that ensured Kingston's growing ethnic minority communities got engaged and involved in the borough structures, participated and were welcome as resident.

Today Kingston is regarded as one of the top two happiest places in London. Bruce McDonald contributed hugely to that.

His integrity, honesty, courage and, above all, leadership, made him one of the best I have had the privilege to work with.

JOHN AZAH
Chief executive
Kingston Race and Equalities Council

Borough view



Jenny Tarbutt from Kingston Camera Club sent us this photo of the Bentall Centre Bears on display for Christmas. To see your picture in Borough View email it, along with details of where you took it, to rachael.burford@london.newsquest.co.uk.

Rising cost of festive trees is just ridiculous

Editor Andrew Parkes has a number of thoughts every week, here are just five of them.

5 THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK...

1. A week or two ago I asked why people insist upon dragging Christmas into November? Well, having looked at the price of Christmas trees I have my answer. They want their money's worth. With inflation at almost nothing, how the devil has the humble green tree reached £70? – and that wasn't even for a big one. If I paid that sort of cash I want to plant the bloody thing in my living room.

2. But, apart from the shock cost of trees I had a pretty good weekend. And following a good hockey result and sitting in a pub overlooking the Weald of Kent to celebrate, I couldn't help feeling good about life. So, does anyone know where the saying 'the Life of Riley' comes from? I know I could have Googled it, but I thought I'd be old fashioned and call upon the knowledge of the readers instead.

3. While I'm talking about the meaning of words, I received an interesting submission for this column from Anthony Anderson. His personal dislikes are Americanisms, qualifiers, misuse of the word unique, double negatives and overuse of the word quirky. I too hate a number of these, but language is always evolving so I'm afraid we're just going to have to put up with it – as I do when my son says: "Sorry, that's my bad".

4. I've never watched Geordie Shore and until two weeks ago had never heard of Vicky Pattison, but found myself strangely pleased when she was crowned Queen of the Jungle. Interesting though that all three finalists of the reality TV show 'I'm a Celebrity' were in fact created themselves by reality TV and aren't, as such, true celebrities. Though in the end Ferne probably deserved to win just for eating that live water spider.

5. And finally, I was sent a further very thought-provoking 5 Thoughts by Mr Anderson related to multiple sclerosis and his personal experience. I haven't got room to print them all here, but will add then to my 5 Thoughts on our website this week and maybe put them in the newspaper later on.

Send in your 5THOUGHTS by email to aparkes@london.newsquest.co.uk
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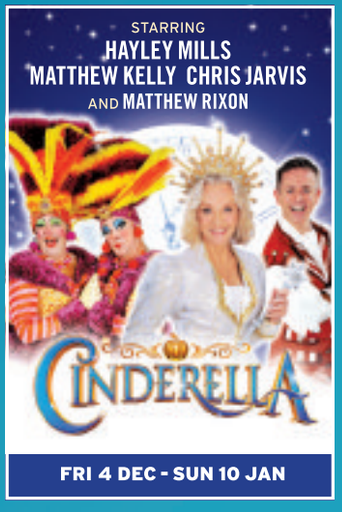
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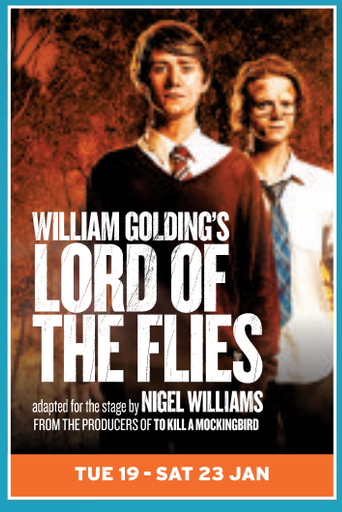
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Price is just the beginning...

AN EXCEPTIONAL SEASON OF THEATRE IN RICHMOND THIS SPRING



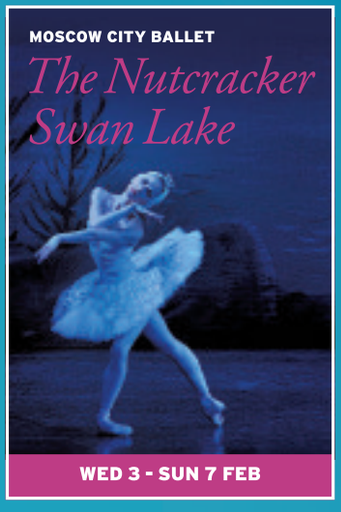
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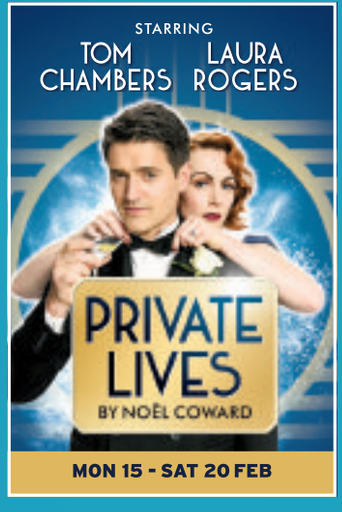
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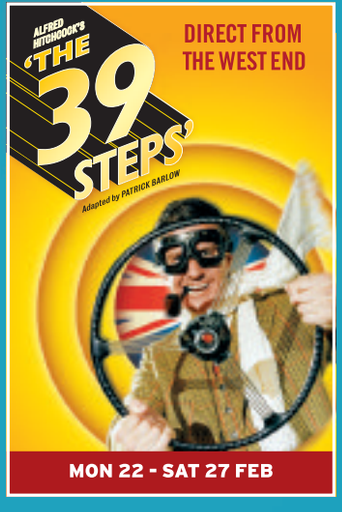
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MON 8 - SAT 13 FEB



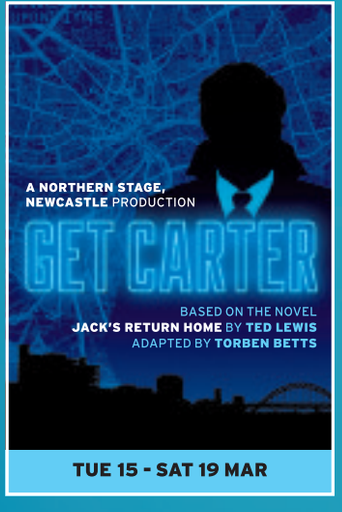
MON 15 - SAT 20 FEB



MON 22 - SAT 27 FEB



TUE 1 - SAT 5 MAR



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MON 11 - SAT 16 APR



MON 2 - SAT 7 MAY

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STAR WARS EPISODE VII – THE FORCE AWAKENS

THIS WEEK'S REASONS TO GO OUT

FILM **Star Wars Episode VII – The Force Awakens (3D), out Thursday, December 17.** As if you didn't already know, there's a new Star Wars film out at the end of the week and it's a pretty big deal. The first of a new trilogy, this instalment is directed by JJ Abrams and its cast includes the heroes of the original trilogy Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker), Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia) and Harrison Ford (Han Solo) as well as newcomers including south Londoner John Boyega.

MUSIC **Kast Off Kinks at the Half Moon, Putney, from 8pm on Saturday.** Comprising original and long term members of the iconic 60s band, the Kast Off Kinks are more than your average tribute show. Tickets cost £12 in advance or £14 on the door. Go to musicglue.com

FESTIVE **Horse drawn rides at Richmond Park from Fridays to Sundays until Christmas.** Swap Santa and his sleigh from a 60 minute ride in a horse drawn carriage around the park under warm blankets, plus a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the stables. The rides, £125 for couples and £250 for the full four person carriage, will raise money for the Operation Centaur charitable project. Go to operationcentaur.com/ rides

PANTO **Cinderella at Richmond Theatre until January 10.** Golden Globe and Bafta-winning actress Hayley Mills and Olivier Award-winning actor and TV personality Matthew Kelly lead the big names. Tickets cost from £11.90. Go to atgtickets.com-Richmond

MARKET **Kingston Christmas Craft Fair All Saints Parish Church Green (opposite John Lewis).** Until Christmas Eve. Eden Crafts hosts a marquee full of gifts like jewellery, clothing, cosmetics and toys. Go to edencrafts.co.uk

PAN'S PEOPLE

Vibe


PETER AND WENDY

> "Kids love it because of the adventure and the flying and everything… but I've seen grown ups in tears"

Christmas is the time of year for big family television events and this year ITV is bringing the story of Peter Pan back to our screens.

Peter and Wendy airs at 8pm on Boxing Day and stars Oscar nominated actor Stanley Tucci, who lives in Barnes, as Captain Hook.

This version is written by Adrian Hodges, the Bafta winning writer of My Week with Marilyn, and includes all of the magical adventure of JM Barrie's tale of the boy who never grew up but expertly weaves it into the story of a teenage girl undergoing life-saving surgery at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Speaking after a preview screening at BFI Southbank, Hodges said: "I felt we have got to do something different because in the theatre it still works triumphantly in its traditional version but I felt that movies, TV needed something different."

For Hodges, his version only amplifies the emotional punch already in the text – among Barrie's inspiration were the tales he told his mother to ease the grief of his elder brother David's death.

He said: "Kids love it because of the adventure and the flying and everything we would expect but I've seen grown-ups in tears.

"It is this extraordinary ability that Barrie had to be both very funny at times, very dry, very drole and also to put his finger on something extraordinarily sad about our passage through life."

The hospital setting also chimes with Barrie's life – the author left the rights to his creation to Great Ormond Street – and that was one of the things that attracted Tucci, who not only plays Hook but surgeon Mr Wylie and Mr Darling.

He said: "That was one of the attractions to me. I loved the idea of switching between the three – in Barrie's story there's two – realities.

"There's a third reality at the hospital. I did not shoot at the hospital myself but I love that aspect of it and I thought it brought an even greater gravitas to the piece. It is a dark piece, there is a sadness to it and yet there's a hopefulness to it too."

The Lovely Bones star Tucci, 55, also clearly relished the chance to be the dastardly Captain Hook.

His larger than life portrayal was described by ITV's director of drama Steve November as 'undoubtedly the best Hook ever'.

Tucci said: "Any actor who says they don't want to play Captain Hook is lying to you. It is a great role because it is so complex because he is obsessed with his mother.

"He is a child and yet he is the most ruthless person on earth. He is a child's nightmare, but in a very exciting way too. The child wants to be confronted by Captain Hook yet it is the thing he or she fears most. What greater role to play?"

Peter and Wendy is on ITV at 8pm on Boxing Day.











TASTE TEST: CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

Arguably the crowning glory of festive celebrations, you should never settle for a second rate Christmas pudding. Luckily for you our team of intrepid taste testers put the supermarkets' offerings to the sword.

MORRISONS: Morrisons M Signature cherry crowned Christmas Pudding (454g, £4). That's a sweet pudding. In every sense of the word. It looks cute with its glistening cherries, it's syrupy and slips down.

LIDL: Snowy Lodge luxury six month matured Christmas Pudding (454g, £2.99). About the right mixture of texture and flavour and does the job. You won't talk about it for days after but neither will it let you down. The James Milner of Christmas puddings.

TESCO: Finest Christmas Pudding (454g, £4). Tesco's pud ticks the box marked 'traditional' and gets the balance about right. It's a tad dry but soaked in brandy and set on fire, it is probably just the ticket. All-but-one of our reviewers had a tepid response to this dessert, but one went out on a limb to say: "It's not hyperbole to suggest – had they celebrated Christmas – the gods of Mount Olympus would be tucking into this pudding every December before Only Fools and Horses. A true triumph." It is hyperbole.

SAINSBURY'S: Taste the Difference 18 month matured Christmas Pudding laced with cognac (900g, £12). Giant nuts and larger than average fruit went some way to recommending an otherwise forgettable pudding from Sainsbury's. One reviewer wrote: "The only memorable thing about it is the claggy film it's left on the inside of my mouth."

ICELAND: Luxury 9 months matured Christmas Pudding laced with cider, brandy, sherry and rum (454g, £2.99). Labelled distainfully as 'hot wet raisins' but one taster and 'basically chewy brandy' by another. Iceland's is a classic pudding, though, so worth a punt if you're after that home-made feel without making your own. One tester wrote: "The kind of traditional pudding your nan might have made when you were a kid, the kind you would have hoped to find a foil-wrapped 20p piece in."

WAITROSE: Christmas Signature Spice Fruited Sponge Pudding (800g, £10). Sticky and orange and sweet. You'll want to lick the bowl out and it's rich enough to push you into a long Christmas Day slumber if you serve it after the turkey. It's spicy-ness and orangeyness were too much for some.

M&S: Intensely fruity Christmas Pudding (907g, £7.50). This one got stuck in the pot and when it came out was squidgy and booze-soaked, like Uncle Monty in Withnail and I. Yet, it struck a chord with a number of the reviewers. "It was like there was a party in my mouth and everyone was invited," wrote one.

ASDA: Extra Special 9 months matured Luxury Christmas Pudding (454g, £3). Oh dear. This plain, dry and miserable little pudding rubbed our panel up the wrong way, for sure. "Budget fruit cake covered in treacle, topped off by a metallic after taste," said one.

ALDI: Specially Selected Golden topped Christmas Pudding finished with edible gold glitter (907g, £8.99). Aldi's golden pudding was a cut above with an abundance of juicy fruits, glace cherries and syrupy sweetness. One reviewer commented: "Nuts and berries blend perfectly with a generous helping of alcohol."



Vibe

PET OF THE WEEK



Christmas is just around the corner and it looks like everyone is getting into the festive spirit, even this little fella.

This is Alfie, Janet Palmer's one-year-old cat. Janet said Alfie likes boots but not smelly feet (there's clearly a fine line) and he behaves like another animal.

She said: "He thinks his a dog and follows you to the shop and he'll also play fetch."

Nominate your pet to be our Pet of the Week by e-mailing jim.palmer@london.newsquest.co.uk with a picture and some details about you and your pet.

PARTYTIME



Depending on your point of view, Donald Trump may already bringing plenty of laughs to the US presidential race but a Kingston comedian is making the debates full-on fun. Originally from Seattle, Erich McElroy is hosting his own Imperfect Guide to the US Presidential Debates – evenings of comedy alongside screenings of the parties' debates. It returns on December 19 at a venue yet to be confirmed. We spoke to Erich about the gigs. **Read more in your Surrey Comet tomorrow.**

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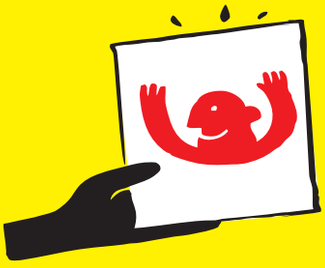
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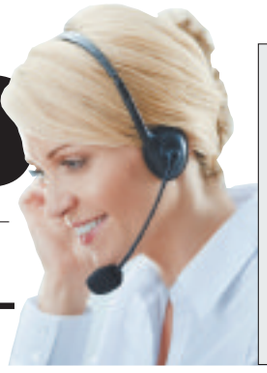


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Consultation on Sixth Form Admission Arrangements for September 2017

Do you wish to take part?

More information can be found on the school's website at www.hinchleywoodschool.co.uk (click on 'Information') or telephone the Clerk to Governors on 020 8398 7161 for a printed copy.
Consultation deadline: Friday 22nd January 2016

DONALD RICHARD SHEPHERD (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Room 21 The Royal Star & Garter Home Upper Brighton Road Surbiton Surrey KT6 6JY, who died on 10/11/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 19/02/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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Transport for London

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

The A3 GLA Road (Hook Rise South, Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames) (Temporary Prohibition Of Traffic) Order 2015

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
2. The purpose of the Order is to enable cyclic maintenance repair works to take place on Hook Rise South.
3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from entering or proceeding on Hook Rise South between Oakcroft Road and Ashcroft Road (local access will be maintained).

 This Order will be effective between 14th December 2015 and 22nd December 2015 every Monday to Tuesday 8.30pm to 05.00am, or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibitions will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 (1) Any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 (2) Anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
5. At such times as the prohibitions are in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via:
 (1) For traffic wishing to continue on Hook Rise South towards Ace Parade - Oakcroft Road, Ashcroft Road, to normal route of travel.
 (2) For traffic wishing to proceed on Hook Rise South Westbound towards Ace Parade from Oakcroft Road northbound - Oakcroft Road, Ashcroft Road, to normal route of travel.

Dated this 10th day of December 2015
Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team Manager
Road Space Management - Operations,
Transport for London, Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

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2) Search. Already know the car you want? If you're in the market for a specific car LINK will display the best deals for that model from trusted local dealerships.

3) Save. We know the importance of getting the best deal and saving money when buying your next car. Once you have found the right deal, you will be lead directly to that car on the dealer's website for all the information you need about that car.

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No regrets over Team GB selections



Great Britain Hockey head coach Bobby Crutchley had no regrets with blooding the likes of Surbiton's Alan Forsyth, *far right*, as his side finished six at the World League final in India.

Team GB lost 2-1 to the hosts in the quarter finals last week and lost 4-1 to Argentina at the weekend to miss out on fifth place.

"We were missing a lot of experience, " said Crutchley.

"Unless you put players in a tournament environment you will never know how they'll do.

More sport: kingstonguardian.co.uk



Opening up: Ricky Sappleton, centre, struck first for Kingstonian on Saturday All pictures: Sylvester George

December is key to Ks hopes

Tommy Williams got exactly what the Ks boss ordered as his side kicked off the December fixture schedule in style on Saturday, *writes Stuart Amos.*

First half goals from Ricky Sappleton, Dan Bennett and Pelayo Pico Gomez secured a 3-1 win over Merstham to keep Williams' men in the Ryman Premier League top five.

"This is a massively important period of the season for us," said Williams after last week's FA Trophy exit at the hands of Truro City.

"We have to make sure that when we come in to January we are still in the mix."



Another one: Ks midfielder Dan Bennett hit his seventh Ryman Premier League goal on Saturday

Ks added former Hendon striker Aaron Morgan to their squad last week and head to Staines Town on Saturday.



Back: Pelayo Pico Gomez's scored his first league goals since September at the weekend

BACK TO HIS ROOTS: Kingston's James eyes top flight career

Owain is Welsh at heart

SPORTS EDITOR
STUART AMOS
samos@london.newsquest.co.uk

Former London Welsh mini Owain James may be making a name for himself at Premiership giants Wasps, but he sees himself returning to his roots when it is time to hang up his boots.

The Kingston 19-year-old was on the losing side as Wasps crashed 38-28 to Harlequins in the A League last month having been promoted to the Wasps full-time academy in April.

The England U18 full back's reputation is blossoming on-loan at National Division One Blackheath, but his rugby education began with the exiles' minis when he was six.

By the time James had progressed to the U9s at Old Deer Park, his dad, John, was coaching the team, and he continued to play for the club up until he was 15, when he left to board at Harrow School.

But while he now has his sights set firmly on progressing through the ranks at the Coventry-based club, his heart is still very much closer to home.

"I feel that when I'm 40 I'll hopefully come back and play for the Occies – that would be quite good fun. If I'm still able to run," said James, *below centre with London Welsh minis chairman Gareth Vaughan Jones, left, and Welsh first team player Guy Armitage.*

"My dad didn't mean to get into coaching, but one day they didn't have a coach, and he just stepped up.

"He ended up doing it for about five years. He was a bit biased. A lot parents would be angry that I was the first name on the teamsheet.

"A lot of my age group at London Welsh then went off to boarding school and the team just faded. We lacked numbers and people disappeared to other teams, and my dad left when I left."

James represented England at U16 level before progressing to the U18 side, and he's now targeting a place in the England U20s squad for next year's Six Nations and the IRB U20 World Championships in Manchester.

"Hopefully, I can push my way back in, however, whenever I play for England against Wales I'm never been quite sure who my parents are supporting," he admits.

With no LV= Cup this season, due to the Rugby World Cup, James' target with Wasps is the Aviva A League and the club thought highly enough of him to include him in its squad for this summer's Premiership Sevens at the Ricoh Arena, as a travelling reserve.

"This year my focus is on just getting game time in the A League and at Blackheath," he added.

"Next season the LV= Cup will be back and hopefully I'll be pushing for Premiership games, but I just want to get game time, even if I went on loan to a Championship team – London Welsh maybe.

"As long as I'm getting game time at a high standard week in, week out."



Casuals success no surprise to keeper Bracken

Kingston football fans might have raised an eyebrow at seeing Corinthian Casuals in the first round proper of the FA Trophy, but it comes as no surprise to goalkeeper Danny Bracken, *writes Stuart Amos.*

Juevan Spencer headed home Dave Hodges' cross deep into stoppage time last Wednesday to give boss James Bracken's men a 1-0 third qualifying round replay win over Ryman Premier League Grays Athletic.

It is the first time Casuals have reached the first round and it added £4,000 to the King George's Field coffers in prize money to go with a visit from South League Premier Division Hungerford Town on Saturday.

"We always believed we could win," said shotstopper Bracken, who is the manager's brother.

"They're flying high in the league above and we are a mid-table team from the league below.



Valuable asset: Juevan Spencer heads home the goal that secured Corinthian Casuals a vital £4,000 in FA Trophy prize money last week Andy Nunn

"We know we are better than that. If we play to our potential every week we'd win the league.

"We looked like we had a plan going forward and knew how we were going to score goals. They looked like they were making it up as they went along.

"We knew if we defended solidly and kept our shape then we'd be alright."

He added: "We made history coming into this round, so to go one further is a massive achievement for the players.

"Considering we have no budget, no money and no expenses, to beat teams from the league above on big money, is a massive achievement."

Casuals showed no sign of fatigue as Michael Salako scored in the 95th minute to secure a 1-0 league win at Three Bridges on Saturday to keep Casuals in touch with the division's top five.

SPORTS*brief*



RUGBY UNION: KCS Old Boys suffered late heartbreak as London Division Two South West leaders Cobham kicked a late penalty to secure a 30-28 league win on Saturday. Tries from Tom Smith, Luke Minors and Johnny Bell, plus a drop goal from Rory Jones, had given the New Malden-based side a 28-27 lead. But Cobham – who scored through tries from Theo Buffini Alex Aves, Matt Koep and Doug Rodman, *above* – responded with an Ollie Weir penalty minutes from time to triumph. In Surrey Division One, Kingston crashed 20-11 to league leaders Old Freemans and Old Emanuel went down 20-13 at home to Old Wellingtonians. **FIXTURES:** KCS Old Boys v Portsmouth, Old Emanuel v Kingston.

ATHLETICS: Kingston & Polytechnic Harriers Sam Shaw and Olly Wilson led their respective U15 and U13 boys teams to second place finishes in the Downs League cross country meeting in Epsom on Sunday. Shaw clocked 11 minutes 33 seconds to finish second behind winner Mohamed Mohamud in the U15 boys race with team-mate Jorge Beltrao (12:25 finishing eighth. Wilson broke the tape in 11:46 to finish second in the U13 boys race with Kingston's Mack Downey (12:14) also finishing eighth. The U15s team is second in the league standings after two races, while the U13s team is third.

HOCKEY: Great Britain's women, featuring Surbiton's Georgie Twigg and Hollie Webb, lost to hosts Argentina 2-1 and drew with China 1-1 in their opening two Pool B games at the World League final in South America over the weekend. They were set to face Australia on Tuesday in the hope of securing an easier passage to the semi-finals.

FOOTBALL: Chessington & Hook United suffered a fourth straight Combined Counties League Premier Division defeat as they crashed 4-2 at Spelthorne Sports on Saturday. The head to AFC Hayes this weekend for the third of six away games this month.

ROWING: Surbiton rowing star Moe Sbihi will be among 1,000 competitors from across the country taking part in the British Rowing Indoor Championships at the Olympic Velodrome in Stratford on Saturday.

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